

**Town of Camden  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
Camden Municipal Building  
August 14, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noticed that this regular Council Meeting was being held in compliance with the Delaware Open Public Meeting Act by posting the agenda on July 31, 2017, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Board, and
- c. The official Town of Camden Web Site.

Vice-Mayor Schock led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor King led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor King, Vice-Mayor Schock, Councilman Dougherty, and Councilwoman Torres.

Absent: Councilman Findley

Staff Attending: Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, Town Clerk Jamie Fenske, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, Chief Financial Officer Tom Josiah, and Sergeant Marcus Whitney.

**AMENDMENTS**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor King explained that Town Hall will be closed Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Labor Day.

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve the July 3, 2017 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Tom Josiah gave his quarterly report. He explained that the preliminary year end has been completed. He added that the actual revenue has exceeded what was budgeted and the actual expenses were under by about \$16,000.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Josiah and Mrs. Marlow for their continued hard work.

Mrs. Marlow stated that approximately 60% of the property taxes have been collected. She added that 1,208 accounts of approximately 1,800 accounts took advantage of the early bird discount which resulted in a savings to the residents of \$24,160.

#### **CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Glenn Neese explained that the CWFD is working on their budget and will be having a budget meeting on Wednesday. He added that they applied for a grant that will assist in paying for four full time EMT employees. He stated that they are looking into leasing ambulances to help save money on maintenance.

Mr. Neese added that the fire department held a crab feast this past weekend which was another successful event.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Neese for his report and thanked the entire CWFD for everything that they do for our community.

#### **CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY**

Mayor King asked Mr. Chaffinch to reach out to the board members to see if we could get more representation at the Council Meetings.

#### **FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN**

None.

#### **VFW**

None.

#### **POLICE REPORT**

Sergeant Whitney gave a report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity. He added that there was an armed robbery at a bank in Camden and the suspect was later apprehended by Dover Police Department.

Mayor King thanked the Camden Police Department for their diligent work on catching the armed robbery suspect.

Councilwoman Torres and Vice-Mayor Schock also thanked the police department for their hard work.

#### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Chaffinch reported that June's RETT check was \$14,581 and July's RETT amount was \$76,991. He also passed out the report for the public works department. He explained that there was approximately 38.5 hours spent on code enforcement.

Mr. Chaffinch reported that he has spoken with Representative Yearick and Senator Bushweller and they have both committed to assisting the town with a combined total of \$72,500. Mr. Chaffinch explained that the amount of \$72,500 they committed to last year will be added to the amount they have committed to this year and will give us a total of \$145,000. He also stated Representative Yearick and Senator Bushweller are possibly willing to provide more assistance after the bids come in.

Councilwoman Torres questioned if there has been any communication with the Newell's Creek HOA about whose responsibility it is to repair the sidewalk along Upper King.

Mr. Eliassen explained that he has extensively reviewed the plans for Newells Creek and nowhere does it say that the sidewalks have been turned over to the Town of Camden. He advised Councilwoman Torres to forward his email from July 25<sup>th</sup> to the HOA to explain the Town's stance on this matter.

## **MAYOR**

Mayor King thanked the police department and the town staff for their continued hard work.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *Christmas Tree*

Mayor King explained that the Christmas tree will be planted at Town Hall in October. He added that it will cost approximately \$800-\$1,000 to have the tree spade move and replant the tree. Jonny Nichols has been gracious enough to donate the tree.

### *CPOA Contract Renewal*

Patrolman Buchwald explained that the contract has been corrected to reflect the changes that resulted from the meeting with Mayor King, Councilman Dougherty, and himself.

Mayor King explained that he likes to have an open line of communication with the rest of the council so that they remain aware of what is going on with the police contract. He thanked Patrolman Buchwald and the entire police department for continuing to put their lives on the line for our community.

Patrolman Buchwald added that renegotiation will take place in 2020.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilwoman Torres, to accept the CPOA contract as submitted. All in favor; none opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Demolition – 28 Peach Street – Trailer*

*Demolition – 11996 Willow Grove Road – 2 car garage*

Mr. Eliassen requested to have Mr. Scott attend the next September council meeting with his findings about each property. He also stated that a public hearing will need to be held first before demolition can take place.

Mayor King stated that he would like to help make the town look better.

Mrs. Marlow added that Mr. Scott is cracking down on code enforcement, especially signs that are placed around town that are in violation of our land use ordinance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Torres stated that she would like to see an ordinance to ban burning for certain size residential lots. She also questioned if a town ordinance could be adopted to help ban panhandlers in the Town of Camden.

Sergeant Whitney explained that the police department is citing the offenders with traffic and criminal offenses. He added that he feels this is sending a message and there are now less of the panhandlers in town.

Councilman Dougherty stated that he spoke with Mr. Chaffinch about the weeds at Vepco Park and they have since been taken care of. He added that he feels the weeds on and around the sidewalks on Camden Wyoming Ave need to be maintained better.

Councilman Dougherty explained that last year many of the sidewalks around town were not shoveled after snowfall and that is in violation of the town ordinance.

Mayor King explained that he will remind the residents to maintain their sidewalks in his mayor letter. He added that he has had a complaint from a resident in Tamarac that another resident in the development has been bringing home big trucks to work on them.

Mr. Chaffinch replied that he has already spoken to the homeowner and will make contact with him again about this issue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made at 8:22pm by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilwoman Torres, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*